

William Rivers Sellon

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Recommended Citation

"William Rivers Sellon." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1906), 478-479.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4609>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](https://www.iowaresearchonline.org/)

of the session of the legislature in 1886 he was nominated by the republican state convention for the office of Auditor of State, which office he filled for three successive terms. In 1893 he was a prominent candidate for Governor before the Sioux City convention, but was defeated by Frank D. Jackson. Mr. Lyons continued in the mercantile business in Guthrie Center until 1900, when by reason of enfeebled health of both himself and his son, he removed to Colorado.

EDWIN R. CLAPP was born in Cazenovia, Madison county, N. Y., May 30, 1827; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, June 8, 1906. In 1825 his father had settled in Madison county, N. Y. In 1837 he removed to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The subject of this sketch spent two winter terms in Prof. Howe's Academy at Mt. Pleasant. In 1846 he came to Ft. Des Moines where with his brother William, he entered into mercantile trade. From 1847 to 1851, with the exception of a few months, he pursued farming north of the present site of Des Moines. On returning to Des Moines he engaged in freighting between Des Moines and Keokuk with ox teams. In 1853 he built the first ice house and stored the first ice ever hauled for market in central Iowa. At the session of the General Assembly in January, 1860, Mr. Clapp was elected sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives. He served through the session efficiently, and with a good degree of credit to himself. In 1867 he became agent for the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad Company, and for some years devoted himself to the management of the department of the Rock Island road from Davenport to Council Bluffs. Mr. Clapp early exhibited marked ability in the accumulation of wealth through prudent and judicious investments. At the time of his death he was one of the wealthiest citizens of Des Moines.

CHARLES A. WARWICK, editor of *The Keokuk Constitution-Democrat*, was born in Butler county, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1852; he died in Keokuk, April 4, 1906. His father's family came to Lee county in 1855, settling near New Boston, where he lived until he was 15 years of age. In 1867 Mr. Warwick came to Des Moines, where for four years he was employed in a grocery store. He then returned to Ft. Madison where for four years he was a shipping clerk for a firm of contractors. In 1875 he entered upon a newspaper career in Keokuk in which he continued until the day of his death. He first worked for *The Keokuk Gate City* as traveling and city solicitor. He was then advanced to the position of city editor of the paper, and eventually became its manager. In 1886, with Mr. R. S. Ransom, he bought *The Keokuk Democrat*, and entered upon independent newspaper management. In 1888 *The Democrat* and *The Keokuk Constitution* were consolidated. In 1891 he purchased the interest of his partner and organized a stock company of which Judge Edward Johnston was a shareholder. Mr. Warwick was very successful in the management of his newspaper properties and a hard, industrious worker. He made himself thoroughly familiar with the various details of newspaper management and his industry and caretaking application gave him his marked success in the management of *The Constitution-Democrat*.

WILLIAM RIVERS SELLON was born in New York City, August 23, 1824; he died in Burlington, Iowa, May 14, 1906. His father was an Episcopal minister. The son lived in New York and attended private schools. At the end of his Freshman year in Columbia College he went

with his father to Pittsfield, Ill. During the Mexican war he was a member of the 1st Illinois Volunteers known as the Quincy Riflemen. At the age of 27 he returned to New York City, living there several years. He engaged as a clerk in a railroad office, and later as book-keeper in a mercantile house. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in the 9th Michigan Infantry. He was captured at Stone River by Forrest's Cavalry, and spent three months in prison at Madison, Ga. In 1863 he was made Lieutenant Colonel of the 12th U. S. Colored Infantry. At the close of the war he settled in Burlington, where he engaged in business until 1871, when he was appointed county superintendent of schools. Col. Sellon was one of the first shorthand reporters appointed under the law providing for such assistance to our district courts. He held the position 16 years under Judges Tracy, Smyth, Newman and Stutsman. In 1887 he removed to Independence, Mo., and later to Kansas City, returning in 1899 to Burlington, where he lived with a daughter and her family until his death.

TIMOTHY JORDAN CALDWELL was born in Vermilion county, Indiana, July 21, 1837; he died in Adel, Iowa, June 16, 1906. He came west with his parents who settled in Dallas county in 1853. Prior to coming to Iowa he attended the seminary at Newport, Indiana. In 1861 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk. He engaged in the practice of his profession in Adel where he continued in residence until 1864 when he became the surgeon of the 23d Iowa Infantry. Upon his discharge from that service he returned to Adel, and continued the practice of medicine in that community until his retirement a few years since. Dr. Caldwell was a progressive practitioner, at various times going east to pursue post graduate courses in various departments of medicine in order to equip himself the better for his profession. He was interested in several large business enterprises, especially banking, and was successful in all his undertakings. In politics Dr. Caldwell was an active and influential republican. He was elected as a member of the House of Representatives in 1881, serving in the 19th General Assembly. In 1883 he was elected to the Senate, and for eight years represented Audubon, Dallas and Guthrie counties.

JOHN HILSINGER was born at Marathon, Cortland county, N. Y., March 4, 1834; he died March 26, 1906, at Sabula, Iowa. Mr. Hilsinger was reared in New York, working on his father's farm, and later as a carpenter and joiner and wheelwright. He read law and was admitted to the bar at Ithaca, N. Y., in the fall of 1857, before the supreme court of that State. In 1858 he came to Iowa, locating in Floyd county, where he was admitted to the bar. He soon afterwards settled in Sabula, Jackson county. He continued to reside there until his death. For two years he was principal of the Sabula High School. In 1860 he was elected township supervisor. In 1861 he was appointed postmaster of Sabula, and held the office with but slight interruption, until President Cleveland's election in 1885 when he resigned. During the war he was enrolling officer for Jackson county. In 1864 he was elected to the State Senate, serving with marked ability in the 11th and 12th General Assemblies. From 1884 to 1890 he was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Jackson county. Almost from the incorporation of the town of Sabula in 1863 Judge Hilsinger served as city attorney. He was one of the Iowa delegates to the Republican National Convention which nominated James G. Blaine for President in 1884.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.